

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

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BY JOHN CARDWELL.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS:  
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN STEAM PRINT.  
1876.

## SIXTH DISTRICT.

*Counties.*—Red River, Titus, Franklin and Hopkins.

SENATOR WM. A. WORTHAM is another Tennessean. He was born in 1830, and is now a little over forty-five years of age. He came to Texas with his mother, a widow, in 1843, and settled in Lamar county; studied at the ordinary schools of the country, and went into a printing office at Marshall in 1846, where he commenced to learn that grand art, which, if properly seconded, is one of the greatest of known schools for refined education. Ascending steadily, in a few years he assumed the tripod, and has made a reputation as an editor.

In 1861 and 1862 Mr. Wortham was a member of the Texas Legislature. He resigned this position in 1862, entered the Confederate army as a first lieutenant, and before the close of the war rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel, serving in 1862 and 1863 in Bragg's army. Since the war he has held public positions in Hopkins county, among them that of district clerk. He was the very efficient engrossing clerk of the House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Legislature,

and was subsequently elected as a member, from Hopkins county, to the lower house of the Fourteenth Legislature. During these later years Mr. Wortham has been engaged in the newspaper business in the city of Sulphur Springs, in Hopkins county, being editor and proprietor of the *Sulphur Springs Gazette*, which paper he established in 1866. He has always been a Democrat, and was the nominee of a Democratic convention for the position he now holds in the legislative branch of the State government. He is a member of the Committees on Internal Improvements, Constitutional Amendments, Educational Affairs, Public Debt and others, and is chairman of the Committee on Public Printing, having held the latter position previously in the House.

Mr. Wortham is about six feet high, of delicate frame, and is possessed of an amiable face. He is a married man, an exemplary citizen, and strictly moral in his habits. His home is at Sulphur Springs.